

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02059 170304Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 150800Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2580

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2059

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TO TEXTS NBRD PARA TWO AND THREE)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, VS, SN

SUBJ: SEVEN VNAF AIRCRAFT IN SINGAPORE

DEPT PASS SECDEF //ISA// AND CINCPAC

REF: SINGAPORE 1978

1. ACTING PRIME MINISTER GOH ADVISED ME TODAY THAT GOS HAD DECIDED TO TURN OVER TO THE USG THE SEVEN FORMER VNAF AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY LOCATED IN SINGAPORE. HE REQUESTED THAT THEY BE REMOVED QUIETLY AND WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY. I POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THREE AIRCRAFT WERE IN CONDITION TO BE FLOWN OUT IMMEDIATELY (THE C-130 AND C-47 WHICH HAD BEEN FLOWN FROM VIETNAM WITH REFUGEES IN THE LAST WEEKS OF THE WAR) AND ONE OF THE FIVE C-130'S BEING REPAIRED BY LOCKHEED. I NOTED THAT THE REMAINING FOUR WERE STILL BEING RECONDITIONED AND WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS WITH THE LAST DUE TO LEAVE IN SEPTEMBER. DR. GOH SAID THERE WAS NO HURRY ABOUT THEIR DEPARTURE.

2. I HAVE ASKED DAO TO ARRANGE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS TO HAVE CREWS BROUGHT IN TO FLY OUT THREE AIRCRAFT WHICH ARE READY TO FLY. WITH DR. GOH'S CONCURRENCE, I HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED DAO TO ARRANGE TO HAVE U.S. MARKINGS PAINTED ON AIRCRAFT ASAP.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT ENSURE THAT DR. GOH'S
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REQUEST FOR QUIET REMOVAL AND NO PUBLICITY BE RESPECTED. I

RECOGNIZE THAT WE WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING TO
PRESS QUERIES. HOWEVER, FOR THE TIME BEING I HAVE INSTRUCTED
PAO TO ANSWER QUERIES ABOUT THE PLANES MERELY BY SAYING THAT
THE SUBJECT IS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH THE GOS. REQUEST WASHINGTON
FOLLOW SAME LINE. AFTER PLANES HAVE ACQUIRED U.S. MARKINGS AND
THREE OR FOUR HAVE BEEN FLOWN OUT, WE WILL REVIEW PROBLEM OF
HOW TO HANDLE PRESS QUERIES WITH GOS. REQUEST THIS MATTER BE
COORDINATED WITH WHITE HOUSE AND DOD SPOKESMAF. CRONK

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND CINCPAC.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT DETENTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SURPLUS PROPERTY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0723
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Subject: SEVEN VNAF AIRCRAFT IN SINGAPORE DEPT PASS SECDEF //ISA// AND CINCPAC
TAGS: MASS, VS, SN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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